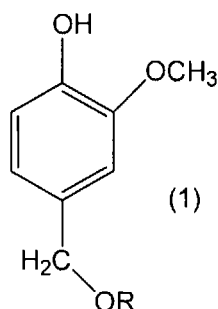


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior claims presented in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A flavor enhancer comprising a vanillyl alcohol derivative represented by ~~General~~ Formula 1:



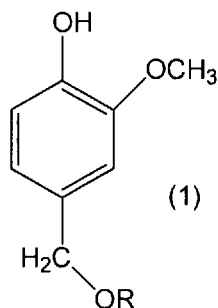
[[~~(I)~~]]wherein R is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms[[~~(I)~~]]

and/or a formed product thereof.

2. (Currently amended) The flavor enhancer according to claim 1, wherein R in ~~General~~ Formula 1 is a n-butyl group.

3. (Currently amended) A flavor enhancer comprising: [[;]

(A) a vanillyl alcohol derivative represented by ~~General~~ Formula 1:



[[~~(I)~~]]wherein R is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms[[~~(I)~~]]

and/or a formed product thereof;

(B) one or more materials selected from the group consisting of sweetenings, salty seasonings, and umami seasonings; and

(C) a flavor and/or spice.

4. (Currently amended) The flavor enhancer according to claim 3, wherein R in ~~General~~ Formula I is a n-butyl group.

5. (Currently amended) The flavor enhancer according to claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, wherein the component (C) is at least one kind selected from ginger, oleoresin, chili pepper oleoresin, pepper oleoresin, jamboo oleoresin, Japanese pepper oleoresin, gingerone, capsaicin, dihydrocapsaicin, piperine, piperidine, chavicine, spilanthol, α -sanshool, β -sanshool, sanshoamide, 4-(L-menthoxymethyl)-2-(3', 4'-dihydroxyphenyl)-1,3-dioxolane, 4-(L-menthoxymethyl)-2-(3'-methoxy-4'-hydroxyphenyl)-1,3-dioxolane, 4-(L-menthoxymethyl)-2-(3'-ethoxy-4'-hydroxyphenyl)-1,3-dioxolane, alkanolic vanillyl amides $[[C]]$, wherein the alkanolic acid has 7 to 12 carbon atoms $[[D]]$, vanillin alkylene glycol acetals $[[C]]$, wherein the alkylene group has 3 to 6 carbon atoms $[[D]]$, and ethyl vanillin alkylene glycol acetal $[[C]]$, wherein the alkylene group has 3 to 6 carbon atoms $[[D]]$.

6. (Currently amended) A food or beverage containing ~~any one of flavor enhancers~~ the flavor enhancer according to claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 5~~.

7. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing the flavor of a food or beverage comprising incorporating the flavor enhancer of claim 1 into the food or beverage.

8. (New) A food or beverage containing the flavor enhancer according to claim 3.

9. (New) A method for enhancing the flavor of a food or beverage comprising incorporating the flavor enhancer of claim 3 into the food or beverage.